



The Penguin

Newsletter of Phillip Island Conservation Society Fourth
Quarter,
December 2010



Newsletter

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Dates for Your Diary 2010

Penguin Island is 6 half hour episodes, narrated by **Rolf Harris** and is available for viewing online at:
abc.net.au/penguinisland

Sat Jan 15th 2011 – PICS street stall, outside Baker's Delight.
10 am – 1 pm. Drop by and say hello!

Sat Jan 15th 2011 – **PICS AGM**. Start with a bring and share meal, 6.30 p.m., then our speaker is Roz Jessop, Environment Manager, Phillip Island Nature Park, on Western Port waterbirds. Meeting and AGM to follow. Parish Hall, Cowes.

Sun Jan 16th 2011 – **Red Rocks Working Bee** – rubbish collection and general tidy up. Meet at car park 10 a.m. Refreshments available afterwards. For information phone co-ordinator John Eddy 5956 8501

Sat Feb 19 - **SEASONAL WALK** : Rhyll foreshore car park to McIlwraith Rd lookout over Observation Point and back. Meet at car park, 2 p.m. Bring hat, sunscreen and water. (includes one moderate hill)

Sat April 16 - **General Meeting** Heritage Centre Meeting Room, Cowes, 7.30 p.m. Speaker TBA

Sun April 17 - **Red Rocks Working bee:** rubbish collection and tidy up. Meet at car park 10 a.m. Refreshments to follow working bee.

Sat May 14 – **SEASONAL WALK:** From Ventnor Common to the Little Rookery and return. Meet at foreshore end of Ventnor Beach Rd, 2 p.m.

Sat July 9 - **General Meeting** Heritage Centre Meeting Room, Cowes, 7.30 p.m. Speaker TBA

Sun July 10 - **Red Rocks Working bee:** planting morning. Meet at car park 10 a.m. Refreshments to follow working bee.

Sat Aug 20 – **SEASONAL WALK:** Churchill Island North Point loop track. Meet at Visitors' Ctre, 2 p.m.

Sat Oct 1 - **General Meeting** Heritage Centre Meeting room, Cowes, 7.30 p.m. Speaker TBA

Sun Oct 2 - **Red Rocks Working Bee:** planting and tidy up morning. Meet at car park 10 a.m. Refreshments to follow working bee.

Sat Nov 19 – **SEASONAL WALK:** Cowes Primary School grounds and sanctuary (TBC). Meet at school car park 2 p.m.

Sat Jan 14 2012 – **PICS AGM.** Bring and share meal 6.30 p.m., speaker, GM & AGM. Parish Hall, Cowes.

Barb Martin Bush Bank: Sales and volunteers - every Wednesday plus 1st Saturday of each month 10 - 1. Phone Anne Davie 5956 8216.

Friends of Koalas (FOK) Habitat Days: First Saturday of every month at 10 a.m. Contact Patsy Hunt ph 5952 2407

Koala Count at the Koala Conservation Centre, second Tuesday of every month at 10am. Contact Patsy Hunt ph 5952 2407

Biosphere - Bass Coast Round Table meets at San Remo on the third Friday of every month at 8 p.m. Contact Jane Jobe, convenor, ph 0409 530 898.

Friends of Churchill Island (FOCIS): email: focis2009@hotmail.com.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Guess what? It's raining! Phillip Island is looking amazingly green and lush, and, in the garden, it's a bumper year for blackberries and milk thistles.

I feel as though I'm coming to the end of long service leave – there's nothing like a Victorian election to put developers 'on hold'! So we need to be ready for all the projects which have been delayed, and which will be initiated next year. Amongst those projects, the car ferry is almost sure to reappear.

We had an interesting "Meet the Candidates" forum before the Victorian election. For PICS I asked a question about the development of the Port of Hastings, and the urgent need for a comprehensive report of the whole of Western Port, similar to the Shapiro Report of 40 years ago. In reply all candidates gave support for an Environment Effects Statement before any port development. On reflection I have to admit that I hadn't framed the question correctly, and it was probably my fault that it wasn't answered.

The need for another Shapiro style report is one of the issues I intend taking up at the Annual Meeting of the Western Port and Peninsula Protection Council in January.

Some exiting local news, which we've just heard, is that the Shire has purchased the Dixon Transport Company land adjacent to the Municipal land in Church Street. This opens up lots of opportunities – how about an Environment Centre?

Our Annual Meeting, on January 15 at the Parish Hall will begin with a shared meal. Please bring some food to share that does not require heating. During the AGM there will be the election of Office Bearers and Committee – how about putting YOUR hand up? There is a nomination form included in this *Penguin*. During 2010 the Committee has generally met on the second Monday at 10.30 a.m. but when the meetings are held depends on the membership of the Committee and what is convenient for them.

I hope to see you at the AGM – and at the street stall in the morning of the same day. With best wishes for a very happy Christmas, and for lots of energy in the coming year.

With best wishes,

Margaret Hancock, President.

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RED ROCKS COAST ACTION

Thanks to Bruno, Daryl and Robert for helping me at our last working bees. The next working bee will be on Sunday 16th January 2011, starting 10 a.m. meeting at the car park for a rubbish collection and general clean up. The PICS committee has decided to spend up to \$1000 from the Public Fund on a botanical survey of the Red Rocks area including the Church Street end and the Water Reserve. This survey will be done by botanist Alison Oates before May 2011, with some preliminary work being done by myself. Meanwhile, the Department of Sustainability and Environment has produced *A field guide to Coastal Moonah Woodland in Victoria*. We have copies available. Please contact me as per p.1 of newsletter if you would like a copy.

John Eddy

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PICS WINTER SEASONAL WALK:

Forrest Caves Reserve to Surf Beach 20.11.10

This walk was a most enjoyable one, as you would expect with perfect weather, good company, lush growth and masses of colorful flowers after a year of excellent rain. Add to that a fascinating section of coastline, home to who knows how many thousands of shearwaters. Six members took part, including Mike Cleeland who was welcomed back from overseas after his honeymoon trip.

Starting from the carpark at Forrest Caves Reserve, we walked west along The Esplanade, noting the indigenous plant species, the extent of the shearwater colony, the various access points managed by the Phillip Island Nature Park, significant weeds, and the impact of the adjacent subdivision. From the stairway near Dunvegan Crescent, we descended to the beach and walked back east, observing cliff and dune vegetation with its vibrant colors and textures. Mike pointed out interesting geological features along the way, like the boundaries between the different basalt layers indicating lava flows at different times. We followed a long meandering dyke (a crack in the

basalt where fresh lava has flowed up and solidified) along the beach past the stairway at Hopetoun Cres, and encountered strange white boulders which appeared to be limestone.

At our destination, the stairway at Forrest Caves Reserve, we paused during our climb and descent to the car park to read the various signs, and to take in the marvelous view across Western Port. At a leisurely pace the walk took us two hours, and covers most of Walk 19 in *Come for a Walk: Exploring Phillip Island*.
John Eddy.

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BASS COAST SHIRE ENVIRONMENT GROUPS GET
TOGETHER
23RD October 2010

This year's event was hosted by the Inverloch branch of the South Gippsland Conservation Society, and though down in numbers on last year was still a spirited and inspiring occasion. The day commenced with a choice of activities: walk to Screw Creek, car pool and walk along Ayr Creek (both major projects of the SGCS over many years) or a visit to the Bunurong Environment Centre. Margaret from SGCS and I chose the latter. The Bunurong Environment Centre comprises a well stocked environmental book shop, a meeting room and a shell museum.

When we arrived a video was showing in the meeting room about the Dinosaur Dig at Inverloch. This was very informative and was followed by a Parks Victoria video on Marine Parks. There is also a "King Koala" video which we did not have time to watch. After purchasing a number of items at the book shop – including David Suzuki's latest (and possibly last) book: *The Big Picture, Reflections on science, humanity and a quickly changing world* – Margaret and I went into the shell museum.

A band of dedicated volunteers has correctly labeled most of the hundreds of specimens on display over many years. The collection has had many donors and is housed in wooden and glass cabinets. Apart from some Aboriginal artifacts and a dinosaur bone cast display the number and array of shells from the local area, other parts of Australia and around the world is quite mind-boggling, and it's all beautifully set out. I

would definitely recommend a visit to the Bunurong Environment Centre if you haven't been there. The SGCS gets this building for a peppercorn rent, and are extremely fortunate to have such a great facility and such a wonderful shell collection to house in it.

Following a delicious lunch back at the Inverloch Angler's Club (catered for by the Hard Loch Café) we settled down for a sharing session. I went first for PICS and told the group about the following: The Heads' photographic exhibition with all proceeds going to our Public Fund; Planning Panels Victoria hearing on the Structure Plan at which PICS gave two presentations – one on Ventnor/Cowes, and one on the Rhyll Inlet; our successful street stalls; Children's Environment Morning (currently in recess); Red Rocks Coast Action; our actions regarding the Vehicular Ferry; our web site; seasonal walks; the newsletter; and the reprint of our PICS history book coming up soon. While we think we are constantly beating our heads up against a brick wall, we actually achieve quite a lot! The other groups were as follows:

Jessica, "Transition Wonthaggi Area". The Transition movement recognises that peak oil is almost upon us and that there is an urgent need to replace our dependence on the carbon economy. The Wonthaggi group has held a vegie seed swap (soon to hold another) and have a community garden at the back of Mitchell House (there is another one at the Adult Education Centre), in recognition that the growing and transport of food represents a big carbon emitter as we currently do things. They work in the garden on Wednesdays. The group wants to plant out the area adjacent to Mitchell House with some indigenous plants to act as a windbreak. They will soon be hosting a screening of the film "Food Inc".

Jessica is also heavily involved with Watershed, tracking the environmental credentials of desalination company Aquasure. When asked about the effect of the lights from the desal site and the drilling rig on shearwaters, Aquasure's response was: "What are shearwaters?" Not very encouraging.

AJ from "Transition Phillip Island". Working on raising awareness and networking. Activities have included a fruit and vegie bottling day, olive harvest and bottling of French Island olives, a sustainability tour of a group of French Island properties, transition training with facilitators and 15 participants, a stall at the Sustainability Festival in Cowes, presentations at the Landcare garden design forum in Cowes and a Landcare conference in Canberra. The group also keeps a presence in the local paper. They are currently trying to get more people involved and wondering whether they should be an incorporated group.

Daryl, “Anderson Inlet Landcare Group” told us that a lot of farmers in the area have got on board. Problem of old trees standing in paddocks, but no regrowth. Two developers who bought farms bulldozed a whole lot of trees and no official action was taken. Incentives to farmers include \$2 p/metre for fencing, free trees, direct seeding. Have discovered from trials that if 1% of the seed is eucalypts, they will become the dominant species in a bad year. Best to direct seeds lots of other species then actually plant a small number of eucalypt seedlings to get the balance right.

John, “Ventnor Coast Action”. Concentrating on one area of cliff, trying to eliminate weeds, especially periwinkle and kikuyu. Need to keep bank stable while indigenous plants grow. 600 plants have gone in this year with an almost 100% success rate. VCA is a volunteer group assisted by council. Also making a submission regarding use of the old pine plantation at the Ventnor Common, which was cleared a few years ago because it was neglected and dangerous. One suggestion is to have joint horse/people paths: impractical. Recent working bee collected heaps of boneseed.

Anwyn, “Corinella Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management”. Lots of weeding and vegetation infill starting on the south side of the reserve. Attempt to restore the Banksia grove which is suffering severely from dieback. Just about to start work on a large set of steps which will feature wheelchair access to a viewing area half way down. Have a grant for signage for interpretive signs around the foreshore, but are unsure of what to use: what is most durable and weatherproof? Have undertaken removal of *Juncus acutus* from a berm that was a former shoreline. The C/ee has an income stream so can pay for the works.

Foster SGCS: Mostly older members. Also members of Friends of the Prom and Promenads. The latter is a group of volunteers who are monitoring the bushfired area of the Prom that is laid out in grids. Lots of regrowth. Also involved in Landcare. Weeding of walking tracks on first Monday of the month with Parks Vic help.

Beth “Wonthaggi Seed Bank” and “Cape Paterson Coastal Plains Landcare”. Beth mentioned that Terri Allen has been working with Melbourne University on Banksia dieback. Many of the volunteers are getting elderly and tired, but still achieving a lot. Mary Ellis and Terri Allen are doing a book on the vegetation of all public land in South Gippsland. The Seed Bank has good funds – e.g. of provision of \$52,000 for weed control. Frustrated that weed control is not done at the appropriate time by authorities – some done after plants have seeded. The desal plant took out thousands of trees they had planted. The replanting of the Wonthaggi Tent Town site is

part of the \$100,000 desal compensation money. Also doing revegetation of the Wonthaggi Heath lands in conjunction with Wonthaggi Urban Landcare. Working with the Catchment Management Authority they have created a wetlands system from Wonthaggi stormwater. Farmers were first against it but now, seeing the better quality of the water coming into the river and onto their land, they are happy. The Rifle Range reserve has benefitted. Few birds before, now 105 species. RR is a good example of the four methods of direct seeding used. Problems with English Broom – can't get the council to recognise that this is a disaster.

Anwyn: "Bass Valley Landcare Group". Pipeline for desal destroyed twenty years of work. Net gain is nonsense. At the Port Phillip & Western Port CMA's Regional Award in the Landcare category locals Faye Tuchtan and Graham Wood of the Bass Valley Landcare Group won. Their winning property is on the Bass Hwy next to Van Steensels, close to the Corinella Rd/Glen Forbes Rd intersection.

Geoff "Cape Paterson Residents and Ratepayers". Have received Caring for Country and Landcare funding. Have a web site. Involved in the community planning exercise for the area, revegetation and wetlands restoration. Have also been before Planning Panels Victoria.

Geoff: "Whales along the Bass Coast coast". Geoff gave us a wonderful slide presentation showing his excellent shots of some of the 200 sightings of whales through Watershed's "Whale Watch" program this winter. Little research had been done on whale sightings in the area. During the research phase for the desal site, scientists had done a desktop study and concluded that only one whale had been sighted in the vicinity of the desal site since 1993! "Valuable Habitat for Whales" includes places where the following activities take place: feeding, social activity, communication, calving. It would seem that our coast qualifies on all of these counts.

Geoff pointed out that in Queensland, where the dams are at 110%, the desal plant is still operating at 30% to justify the investment, and Queenslanders are of course paying for that. A similar situation may well exist in Victoria before too long.

Geoff "Bass Coast Friends of the Hooded Plover". Successful last season with 20+ fledglings. Previous season there were 35 fledglings for the whole of Victoria.

David, Inverloch branch, SGCS: Having lots of meetings, involved in lots of planning issues, environment projects and the Bunurong Environment Centre. Aiming to increase habitat and biodiversity. Lance Creek reservoir which they planted with 100,000 plants some years ago and encouraged farmers

to be responsible with their effluent, now looks like a lake in bushland. Screw Creek and Ayr Creek also success stories. Thompson Estate – a bush reserve and Ayr St Inverloch – an unused road with coastal heathland also being worked on. Many challenges – e.g. of 23 tandem tipper loads of blackberries being removed from Ayr Creek before they could do the original work!) Everyone – not just environmental groups – struggling for volunteers and members. SGCS has six activities for members per year. Spending less time at VCAT because at best all they get is a compromise and BCSC has marginally better planning policies now. Values of the area on which SGCS work is based: spectacular landscapes and coastline, the Bunurong Marine Park, Anderson Inlet, fragile biodiversity, both terrestrial and marine. David thanked the society's admin officer, Laurel, without whom the society would not function nearly so well.

David showed slides of a degraded area at the Wreck Creek development where the developer illegally dumped two metres of fill, which promptly flowed into Venus Bay with the wet weather. A condition of his permit was that no sediment would leave the site. He is a serial offender in this way. Eventually he was fined a paltry \$1300. Very frustrating. David finished with a slide showing three aerial photos of the desal plant, which clearly showed the huge environmental footprint of this development, and the advice that even though we may feel down about the environment, environmental battles are worthwhile, and we have to keep battling.

Since the Green and Labour candidates for Bass were present because of their respective environment interests, David gave them a chance to speak. Each spoke very briefly. Neil Rankine (Greens) said that it was evident that both major parties were trying to “green themselves up” due to so many people voting Green. Gerry Lonergan (ALP) said that he believed the ALP had good green credentials in Victoria.

Our thanks to Laurel and David and SGCS for hosting the day, which was well organised, well catered, and well worthwhile! Thanks also to Bass Coast Shire for their support. *Christine Grayden.*

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WHAT CAN PICS DO WITH OUR PUBLIC FUND?

When you make a donation to the PICS Public Fund you are not legally able to specify what you want your money spent on if you want a tax deductible donation. However, there are categories of activity which we are permitted as “Expenditure on the Natural Environment” from our Public Fund. Members can make suggestions to general meetings, or the committee may make suggestions, from one of the following categories:

- Administration costs
- Coasts and oceans
- Conservation covenants
- Environmental advocacy
- Environmental education
- Environmental Defender’s Office costs
- Fundraising and campaign support
- Greenhouse air/quality
- Inland waters (excludes salinity)
- Land conservation (excludes national/state parks, reserves, includes salinity)
- National Parks, state/territory parks, local reserves
- Native animal welfare (i.e. care and rehabilitation of injured native animals)
- Pollutants, toxics, nuclear waste
- Renewable energy
- Species conservation (excludes native animals’ welfare)
- Sustainable development
- Waste management
- Other (to be specified in annual report)

If you would like to donate to our Public Fund, please use the form attached to this newsletter. Please also note that this is a separate account, and cheques or postal orders need to be made out to “Phillip Island Conservation Society Public Fund”. The accounts are not interchangeable, so please do not make out one cheque to cover your donation and your membership. Sorry, but we require two separate cheques or money orders. Any enquiries, contact me as per page 1. *Christine Grayden, Treasurer.*

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2011 MEMBERSHIPS!

You will soon receive your membership form in the mail, unless you have already paid your 2011 membership. Memberships come up for renewal in January each year. It makes the Treasurer’s job easier if you can pay during

January, then we can budget for the year. Thank you for your membership of PICS in the past, and we look forward to you renewing for 2011.

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NATURE NOTES

1. A colleague brought me a strange creature; one of a number of the same type that were mysteriously appearing in her bathroom. Looking like a small pile of dirt, less than 2 cm long, they were usually motionless, but occasionally seen to move slowly in small jerks. The specimen turned out to be an Australian

Bag Moth, like a tiny casemoth. The dark-headed caterpillar spins a silken case around itself and incorporates into it small pieces of dead leaf and lichen, which it commonly feeds on. The larva can extend its body out the front of the spindle-shaped bag, get a grip with its front feet and heave the mobile home up a few millimeters at a time. Eventually it will reach a max size of about 2 cm, pupate and then emerge as a small moth. The female has wings brightly coloured with metallic blue but which never fully open, so it can not fly. The male, though more drab in colour, is a strong flier however.

2. The Barb Martin Bush Bank has an unusual problem. The main potting mix pile has been taken over by nesting pardalotes, as evidenced by a neat tunnel entrance. The birds have been active for some weeks, but so far no sign of young. Co-ordinator Jenny Toy has put up a little sign warning BMBB volunteers, and may have to order another load of potting mix (for plant propagation, not for nesting sites!)

3. After strong winds I found on the ground under a Blue Gum a leaf with several marble-sized galls, and placed it in a plastic bag for later investigation. Several days later I noticed tiny insects also in the bag. Under a microscope I could see they were gall wasps, about 2 mm long with yellow bodies with black stripes and red eyes. Their round exit holes were clearly visible in the galls. Careful dissection of the galls showed they consisted of spongy plant tissue, and inside were a number of adult wasps just about to chew their way to the outside world. Several pupae, and one, white legless larva, were also found in chambers near the centre of the gall. Such galls are produced when the plant responds to the eggs laid by an adult wasp by excessive growth of plant tissue around them.

4. An albino kangaroo was spotted on the west side of the Bass Highway at The Gurdies. It was standing amongst long grass only a few metres in from the road and the pink skin on its head was clearly seen. It may have been wondering if it could cross the double highway at 8 a.m. to return to the reserve on the opposite side of the road. Hopefully it took the safer route of returning to the nearby Hurdy Gurdy Creek and crossing underneath the bridges. Albino kangaroos are uncommon, but not extremely rare, and probably are prone to increased incidence of skin cancer. *John Eddy*

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NORTH SHORE EROSION STUDY REVISITED

Earlier this year Bass Coast Shire Council commissioned coastal and environmental consultant *Water Technology* to undertake a study entitled “Wave Erosion and Storm Surge at Cowes East Foreshore – an investigation into Management Options”. It is 24 years since our Society undertook the North Shore study with Dr Eric Bird, and the need to update the findings of that report was evident. Consideration included the ongoing deterioration of existing coastal protection structures, intensified development along the coast, and State Government policy requiring planning to include the likelihood of sea level rises of at least 0.8 metres by 2100.

The present study looks at the coastline from Erehwon Point east to Sanders Rd, in Silverleaves, and aims to collate and review all existing information, assess the coastal processes and extent of erosion, review existing coastal protection works, and assess options for protection. Use was made of the information PICS collected into the North Shore Resource Document during the 1986 study, and community input was sought in a series of public meetings in October. PICS representatives also met with the consultants. The results of the study should be available early next year. Council has already budgeted for \$35,000 for capital works to improve foreshore protection.

John Eddy.

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1. Minutes of the General Meeting held at the Heritage Centre Meeting Room, 2.10.2010
 1. **Welcome.** The President, M. Hancock, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 8.03 pm. Particularly welcomed was guest speaker Helen Rawson, photographer.
 2. **Attendance.** As per attendance book.
 3. **Apologies.** As per attendance book.
 4. **Minutes of the previous General Meeting** 3rd July 2010, Patsy Hunt/Anwyn Martin, *carried*.
 5. **Business Arising:**
 1. **Ferry** – Issue will probably be back in February or March. Other sites mooted are Erehwon Point or end of Osborne Road. Some Cowes Yacht Club members are thinking they might get a marina with the ferry terminal. Patsy Hunt read a reply she had received from Regional Development Victoria which named Bass Coast Shire Council as the principal project proponent. PICS's attitude to any site will depend on a viable EES being done. Does not see the proposal as being financially viable.
 2. **Newhaven Boys Home** – VCAT has rejected the current proposal.
 3. **Tree Removal Coghlan Rd** – Trees are still there.
 4. **Supermarkets** – The minister has approved both the supermarket proposals. PICS objected on the grounds of trees (some of which are remnant vegetation) removal, drainage problems and the need for sustainable buildings, none of which were allowed.
 6. **Correspondence:**

In:

 1. **Bass Coast Shire Council re:** plans for a public consultation on a South Coast Walking track. \$20,000 has been set aside for this process.
 2. **ASCIANO** – Port plans proposal booklet. We hope to get a speaker from this group next year at a general meeting.
 3. **Bass Coast Shire Council:** re permit conditions for the Boomerang and Hollydene sites.
 4. **Bass Coast Shire Council** – Comments invited on draft plans for old pine plantation, Ventnor. By 29.10.10.
 5. **Bass Coast Shire Council** – Sustainable Communities initiative.

Out:

 1. **Environment Defenders Office** informing them of Council's decision to reject current vehicular ferry proposal.

2. Bass Coast Shire Council – re Transfer Station, asking them to move out of the Rhyll site as soon as possible and to require any private operation to take all types of recyclables.

3. Bass Coast Shire Council – asking for connectivity between estates in west Cowes and the retention of the Anderson Street Biolink.

4. Mark Manteit, former CEO, PINP, wishing him well for the future.

Moved: John Eddy seconded: Olga Bolitho, carried.

7. Treasurer's Report: Tabled.

Moved: C. Grayden, seconded: Anwyn Martin, carried.

8. General Business:

1. Re: Lack of objectors being informed of Planning Panels Victoria decision on supermarkets. "That we write a letter to the Minister for Planning, Justin Madden, expressing our dissatisfaction at the lack of communication on this issue." Patsy Hunt/John Wright carried.

2. Public meeting re: problems with Nature Park Board to be held Wednesday next. Margaret Hancock stated that there were communications problems between the Board and the public due to no direct representation of locals on the Board. Stella Axarlis is the only Phillip Island resident currently on the Board. Patsy Hunt stated that the local newspaper report on the PINP regulations issue stated that the Advisory C/ee members were not independent. She objected to this.

3. Patsy Hunt reported that a Dutch boat with a barge to go to Kilcunda for desalination work is currently moored off Silverleaves near Observation Point for approximately 2 weeks of preparation work. She is concerned about the effect on the migratory waders that are starting to return, due to lights and noise. Bessie Tyers of WESBOC is currently contacting Birds Australia and BOCCA to see if anything can be done from their point of view. PICS will place a 'watching brief' on the situation.

4. Red Rocks Coast Action: John Eddy (RRCA Co-ordinator) reported that there is fencing of the foreshore needed from stairway near toilets back towards Red Rocks and also immediately east of the stairway at the car park due to public seeking shade under the moonahs. "That this meeting approves the use of \$500 of the funds set aside for Red Rocks as a contribution towards fencing of the foredune directly east of the carpark stairway. This sum is to be paid to the Bass Coast Shire Council once the fencing has been completed." John Eddy/Olga Bolitho carried.

5. Red Rocks signage: John Eddy handed out copies of the draft text for public information signage in the barbecue shelter at Red Rocks car park.

“That this meeting approves the current draft text for the Red Rocks signage and asks the Committee to review subsequent drafts and final layout.” John

Eddy/Christine Grayden carried.

Alison Oates offered to update some of the botanical names. Anwyn Martin warned that the Shire was currently slow implementing signage due to the review of the style guide.

6. Penguin Island: Margaret Hancock reminded everyone of the television series on ABC1, Thursday evenings: “Penguin Island”, made on Phillip Island about the penguins and other wildlife.

9. Guest Speaker Helen Rawson gave a slide presentation of her own photographs, comparing past scenes with current – e.g. the Silverleaves groyne area – then concluding with some of her award winning photographs taken in the last few years.

10. Vote of Thanks from M. Hancock. Helen was presented with a copy of the PICS history book.

11. Dates The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday January 15, starting at 6.30 p.m. with a bring and share meal, 7.30 Roz Jessop will speak about Westernport’s Water birds, followed by G.M and AGM. Parish Hall, Cowes.

12. The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

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**Phillip Island Conservation Society Inc.
Minutes of 42nd Annual General Meeting, 9th
January 2010 following the General Meeting**

- 1. The meeting opened** at 9.57 pm.
- 2. Attendance and Apologies** as per the General Meeting.
- 3. Minutes** of the **AGM** of the 10th January **2009** received.

Moved, P. Manning, seconded, P. Taylor, carried.

- 4. President’s Report** received as presented.

Moved, M. Hancock, that the report be accepted, *seconded*, M. Cleeland, *carried*.

5. Treasurer's Report received as presented.

Moved, C. Grayden, that the report be accepted and the accounts be approved for payment, *seconded*, P. Taylor, *carried*.

6. A. Martin took the chair and announced that **Nominations** had been received prior and no election was necessary.

PRESIDENT:

Margaret Hancock

Proposer, J. Box, *seconder*, J. Fleming, *carried*.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Penny Manning

Proposer, R.G. Elder, *seconder*, Cathie Roby, *carried*.

SECRETARY:

MINUTE SECRETARY: Gaye Cleeland

Proposer, M. Cleeland, *seconder*, P. Wilson, *carried*.

TREASURER:

Christine Grayden

Proposer, Ann Stocker, *seconder*, John Wright, *carried*.

COMMITTEE:

John Jansson

Proposer, J. Eddy, *seconder*, A. Martin, *carried*.

Anne Davie

Proposer, G. Cleeland, *seconder*, J. Eddy, *carried*.

Pauline Taylor

Proposer, Faye Lee, *seconder*, Gerard S. Lee, *carried*.

Gillian Collins

Proposer, J. Box, *seconder*, M. Hancock, *carried*.

Terry Nott was nominated from the floor

Proposer, B. Nott, *seconder*, M. Hancock, *carried*.

7. Business – As Richard Dakin is leaving PINP it was *moved*, A. Davie, *seconded*, P. Manning, that PICS write and wish him well. *Carried*.

It was *moved*, J. Eddy, *seconded*, E. Shaw, that a letter of thanks be sent to the Head family for their generous support of PICS. *Carried*.

E. Shaw was thanked for facilitating the informative and well-designed WESBOC bird trails brochure.

David Lancaster raised the subject of membership levels, a matter of some concern to PICS which the Committee has attempted to address since the last AGM.

8. Next AGM 15th January 2011.

9. Working Bee tomorrow, 10th January, Red Rocks Coast

Action.

10. **Robbie Burns Afternoon** Sunday 24th January

11. **The meeting closed** at 10.16 pm.

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Phillip Island Conservation Society Inc.

Minutes of General Meeting held January 9, 2010

1. **Welcome.** The President, M. Hancock, welcomed everyone to fingerfood at 7.40 pm and opened the meeting at 8.48 pm. Particularly welcomed was **guest speaker Ella Boyen**, an Al Gore-trained climate change advocate who was introduced by member **Mike Cleeland**.

2. **Attendance.** As per attendance book.

3. **Apologies.** As per attendance book.

4. **Minutes of the previous General Meeting** 3 October 2009, as circulated in the Newsletter. *Moved: P. Manning, seconded: G. Cleeland, carried*

5. Business Arising:

C88, the Cowes, Silverleaves, Ventnor and Wimbledon Heights Structure Plan which delineates town boundaries and which has been under way since 2000 is outlined in the Annual Report as published in PICS Newsletter March 2010.

6. Correspondence:

As tabled. *Moved: P. Manning, seconded: A. Davie, carried.*

7. Treasurer's Report:

As received at AGM. *Moved: C. Grayden, seconded: P. Taylor, carried.*

8. 42nd Annual Report:

As received at AGM.

Moved: M.

Hancock, *seconded: M. Cleeland, carried.*

9. Other Business:

As a result of her inspirational talk about *climate change* it was resolved to have a day-long workshop with Ella on the 9th April.

Mention was made of the catalogue, issued to accompany *Summer Land : the Phillip Island photos of Keith Head*, with its essay by Lesley Head, *The rewilding of Summerland*, an exhibition held in the Newhaven Hall from 27th December 2009 to 3rd January 2010, proceeds of which are to be generously given to PICS.

PICS has attracted some *new members* by holding street stalls outside the Cowes supermarket.

The *Summerland buyback* is expected to be complete by April 2011. DSE plans are due for release “soon”.

Another successful *Environment Groups Get-Together* was held.

Controversial *planning issues* include the Port of Hastings, the Stony Point-to-Cowes vehicular ferry and the desalination plant.

Terry Nott gave a summary of the presentation given by PICS members on the conservation of *Rhyll Inlet* to a recent hearing at Planning Panels Victoria.

The proposal for a microbrewery in *Coghlan Rd* was refused at VCAT. The future of Coghlan Rd is of concern to the Society. *Bluegum Alley* is also under increased pressure as a commercial thoroughfare.

A solution is yet to be found for problems surrounding the use of *‘Chinaman’s’ Estate*.

The importance of a *third signatory* to the S173 agreement on Saltwater Creek 20 years ago has become increasingly apparent.

Members were reminded of the upcoming *Robert Burns afternoon* being held on Sunday 24th January to end the 250th anniversary celebrations of the poet’s birth.

10. Vote of Thanks and a copy of *An Island Worth Conserving*, to guest speakers Ella Boyen and Mike Cleeland,

was given by M. Hancock.

11. **The meeting closed** at 9.57 pm.

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